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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Public meetings scheduled for Raymond-Cosmopolis transmission project

PORTLAND, Ore. – The Bonneville Power Administration has scheduled public meetings Tuesday, Feb. 11, and Wednesday, Feb. 12, on a proposal to rebuild the transmission line between the towns of Raymond and Cosmopolis, Wash. The 18-mile-long line is roughly parallel to Highway 101 and most activities would take place within the existing right of way. The project involves removing and replacing the existing steel towers and installing new conductors able to carry more current.

The line was originally built in the 1930s and has significantly deteriorated due to age, coastal weather and falling trees, which have knocked the line out of service 91 times over the past 10 years.

The major reasons for the proposed project include growth in the area and safety concerns over possible overloads and the frequent outages.

Who: BPA has scheduled two public meetings to discuss the project. Project team members will be available to answer questions and receive input.

What: A preliminary environmental assessment describes the project and explains the need for the proposal. It describes existing environmental and social conditions, analyzes potential environmental impacts and lists proposed mitigation measures designed to lessen those impacts.

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When and Where: Tuesday, Feb. 11, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Lions Club, 601 2nd Street, Cosmopolis;

Wednesday, Feb. 12, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Pacific County Public Utility Department, 405 Duryea Street, Raymond.

Why: To provide the preliminary environmental assessment for public review and discussion. To gather public comments that will enable BPA to determine if issues have been sufficiently analyzed.

The deadline for comments is Feb. 19. A final environmental assessment and decision regarding whether BPA will proceed with the project will be available in March. Construction could start as early as June.

Project information is available on the Internet at
<http://www2.transmission.bpa.gov/projects>.

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